

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/635,874

Applicant(s)

HULL, RICHARD

Examiner

Tuan C To

Art Unit

3663

NW

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 08/19/2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-22.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 05 August 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

[Signature]
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
GROUP 3600

DETAILED ACTION

This communication is an Examiner's reasons for allowance in response to application filed on 08/05/2003, assigned serial 10/635,874 and titled "Method and Arrangement for Guiding a User Along a Target Path."

The following is the Examiner's statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

As previously indicated in the Ex parte Quayle action mailed on 07/16/2004, the present application was set in a condition of allowance except for the deficiency of the specification. The applicant's amendment on 08/19/2004 indicates that the specification has now been amended. Thus, the application is now set in a condition for allowance.

The prior art closest to the subject matter of claims 1 and 12 is the reference of Tamai et al. (U.S. 5904728A) which discloses an apparatus and method for providing route guidance to vehicle user and the audio message provided to vehicle user before said user begin to turn to a specific road or a specific intersection. The reference to Tamai et al. is missing to disclose the features as claimed in claims 1 and 12.

It is found that none of the references, either alone or in the combination, teaches or suggests "An arrangement for guiding a user along a target path, comprising: relative-location determining means for determining the position of the user relative to the target path; and audio-cue means for providing respective audio cues to the user via left and right audio channels, the audio-cue means being arranged to cause these cues to be indicative of the relative position

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determined by the relative-location determining means and to vary in a complementary manner over at least a range of values of said relative position without thereby forming a spatialized virtual sound source the position of which changes with the value of said relative position", "A method of guiding a user along a target path, comprising (a) determining the position of the user relative to the target path; and (b) providing respective audio cues to the user via left and right audio channels, these cues being indicative of the relative position determined in step (a) and varying in a complementary manner over at least a range of values of said relative position without thereby forming a spatialized virtual sound source the position of which changes with the value of said relative position".

The prior art does not contain any teaching that would lead a skilled person to modify the closest prior and thereby arrive at the invention. Therefore, the application is now set in a condition for allowance.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tuan C To whose telephone number is (703) 308-6273. The examiner can normally be reached on from 8:00AM to 5:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thomas Black can be reached on (703) 305-8233.

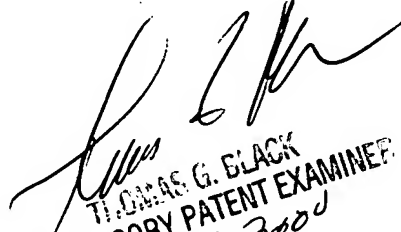
The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/tc

October 25, 2004



THOMAS G. BLACK
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
GROUP 3000